

Minnesota Trivia...

1. Minnesota baseball commentator Halsey Hall was the creator of the phrase "holy cow."

2. The Mall of America in Bloomington is the size of 78 football fields or a total of 9.5 million square feet.

3. Products invented in MN include:

masking tape

Scotch tape

Wheaties

Bisquick

the Bundt pan

HMO's

Aveda beauty products

Green Giant vegetables

4. The St. Lawrence Seaway opened in 1959 allowing oceangoing ships to reach Duluth, now an international port. Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin are ranked the 3rd and 4th largest ports in the world. If counted together they would be the worlds largest port.



Halsey Hall

Duluth Harbor



5. Minneapolis is home to the oldest continuously running theater (Old Log Theater) and the largest dinner theater (Chanhassan Dinner Theater) in the country.



Old Log Theatre

6. The original name of the settlement that became St. Paul was "Pig's Eye," named for a French-Canadian whiskey trader, Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant, who had led squatters to the settlement.

7. The world's largest pelican stands at the base of Mill Pond dam on the Pelican River in downtown Pelican Rapids. The 15 1/2 foot tall concrete statue was built in 1957.

8. The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is the largest urban sculpture garden in the country.



A portion of the 11 acre sculpture garden

9. The Guthrie Theater is the largest regional playhouse in the country.



10. Minneapolis' famed skyway system connecting 52 blocks (nearly five miles) downtown makes it possible to live, eat, work and shop without going outside.

11. Minneapolis has more golfers per capita than any other city in the country.

12. The climate-controlled Humphrey Metrodome is the only facility in the country to host a Super Bowl, a World Series and an NCAA Final Four basketball championship.

20. For many years, the world's largest twine ball has sat in Darwin. It weighs 17,400 pounds, is twelve feet in diameter, and was the creation of Francis A. Johnson.

21. The stapler was invented in Spring Valley.

22. In 1956, Southdale, in the Minneapolis suburb of Edina, was the first enclosed climate-controlled shopping mall.



23. Private Milburn Henke of Hutchinson was the first enlisted man to land with the first American expeditionary force in Europe in WWII on January 26, 1942.

24. The water skis were invented in 1922 by Ralph W. Samuelson, who steam-bent 2 eight-foot-long pine boards into skis. He took his first ride behind a motorboat on Lake Pepin in Lake City.

25. In 1973 in Olivia a single, half-husked corn cob towers over a roadside gazebo. It is 25 feet tall, made of fiberglass.

26. The first children's department in a library was established at the Minneapolis Public Library. They separated children's books from the rest of their collection in 1889.

27. The first automatic pop-up toaster was marketed in 1926 by McGraw Electric Company of Minneapolis under the name "Toastmaster." The retail price was \$13.50.



28. On September 2, 1952, a five-year-old girl was the first patient to undergo a heart operation in which the "deep freezing" technique was employed. Her body temperature, except for her head, was reduced to 79 degrees Fahrenheit. Dr. Floyd Lewis at the Medical School of the University of Minnesota performed the operation.

29. The first aerial ferry was put into operation in 1905 over the ship canal between Duluth and Minnesota Point. It had room enough to accommodate six automobiles, and the roundtrip took 10 minutes.

30. Rollerblades were the first commercially successful in-line roller skates. Minnesota students Scott and Brennan Olson invented them in 1980, when they were looking for a way to practice hockey during the off-season. Their design was an ice hockey boot with 3 inline wheels instead of a blade.



Four-wheeled inline blade

31. The first intercollegiate basketball game was played in Minnesota on February 9, 1895.

32. In 1919 a Minneapolis factory turned out the nation's first armored cars.

33. Tonka trucks were developed and manufactured in Minnetonka.

34. The Hormel Company of Austin, MN marketed the first canned ham in 1926 and introduced spam in 1937.

35. Introduced in 1963, the Control Data 6600, designed by Control Data Corporation, was the first "super" computer. It was used by the military to simulate nuclear explosions and break Soviet codes as well as to model complex phenomena such as hurricanes and galaxies.

36. Candy maker Frank C. Mars of Minnesota introduced the Milky Way candy bar in 1923. Mars marketed the Snickers bar in 1930 and introduced the Three Musketeers bar, which contained three bars in one wrapper, each with a different flavor nougat, in 1937. Mars is buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.

37. A Jehovah's Witness was the first patient to receive a transfusion of artificial blood in 1979 at the University of Minnesota Hospital. He had refused a transfusion of real blood because of his religious beliefs.

38. Minnesota has one recreational boat per every six people, more than any other state.

39. There are 201 named Mud Lakes, 154 named Long Lake, and 123 named Rice Lake in Minnesota.

40. The Hull-Rust mine in Hibbing is the largest open-pit mine in the world.



41. Minnesota's waters flow outward in three directions: north to Hudson Bay in Canada, east to the Atlantic Ocean and south to the Gulf of Mexico. A triple continental divide.

42. At the confluence of the Big Fork and Rainy Rivers on the Canadian border near International Falls stands the largest Indian burial mound in the upper midwest, known as the Grand Mound historic site.

43. Author Laura Ingalls Wilder lived on Plum Creek near Walnut Grove.

44. Akeley is birthplace and home of the world's largest Paul Bunyan statue. The kneeling Paul Bunyan is 20 feet tall. He would be 33 feet tall if standing up.

45. Hibbing is the birthplace of the American bus industry. It sprang from the business acumen of Carl Wickman and Andrew Anderson - who

opened the first bus line (with one bus) between the towns of Hibbing and Alice in 1914. The bus line later grew to become Greyhound.



46. The first official hit in the Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis was made by Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds in a preseason game.

47. Polaris Industries of Roseau invented the snowmobile.

48. Twin Cities-based Northwest Airlines was the first major airline to ban smoking on international flights.

49. Alexander Anderson of Red Wing discovered the processes to puff wheat and rice giving us rice cakes.

50. The largest dala horse in North America is in Mora.



Dala Horse - a Swedish art form